



DATE: February 24, 2016

AGENDA ITEM # 4

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission

FROM: Cedric Novenario, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Vision Zero

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss applicability of a Vision Zero program in Los Altos

BACKGROUND

At the special meeting on February 3, 2016, Colin Heyne, Deputy Director of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, provided a presentation on Vision Zero.

DISCUSSION

The concept of Vision Zero is simple: reduce and eliminate “life-altering” accidents, specifically including (but not limited to) those that result in pedestrian/bicycle related fatalities. The Vision Zero Tool Kit provided by Colin Heyne provides a general two-step approach to starting a Vision Zero Program:

1. Adopt a Vision Zero policy
2. Develop a Vision Zero implementation plan.

Step 1 – Vision Zero Policy

Staff requests to begin a dialogue about the desire and applicability of implementing a Vision Zero program in Los Alto, based on the presentation by Colin Heyne and the information from the Vision Zero Toolkit.

Per the Vision Zero toolkit, “The basic policy is a goal to have zero deaths or life-altering injuries on a jurisdiction’s roadways by a certain date and to accept that all deaths are preventable.”¹

Development of such a policy will be strengthened by endorsements and support by the police department, city commissions, and County Public Health department. The toolkit provides example policies from the City of San Mateo and San Diego, which Los Altos can use to model a City-specific policy.

¹ Emma Shales, Tony Dang, Jaime Fearer, Colin Heyne, *Vision Zero Toolkit*, “Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and California Walks, August 2015

Step 2 – Vision Zero Implementation

The basic framework of Vision Zero revolves around the concepts/programs of Evaluation, Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Encouragement, Engagement, and Equity. Developing a Vision Zero implementation plan should incorporate this framework. Below is a summary of these concepts/programs that Los Altos has or is working on:

- Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) -Evaluation and **Engineering**
- Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) – Evaluation and **Engineering**
- BPAC Education Subcommittee - **Education**
- Routine traffic enforcement at schools and frequently requested enforcement areas - **Enforcement**

In addition to continuing efforts associated with the above concepts/programs, the concepts/programs below are elements that are recommended for development in order to complement the above, and to construct a Vision Zero Program:

- Evaluation – i.e., enhance the efforts included in the BTP and PMP to develop programs that will obtain pedestrian/bike data on a regular basis
- Encouragement – i.e., develop outreach strategies to educate all road users regarding safety
- Engagement and Equity – i.e., engage with road users who may be underrepresented in previous efforts, OR those that do not regularly participate in civic activities

Next Steps/Actions

Staff can work with the Police Department to collect pedestrian/bicycle accident and incident (e.g., “near miss”) data, and map the locations to better understand any trends, and present this information to BPAC and the Council for the continuing dialogue regarding Vision Zero.

The Council can declare a City Policy consistent with the goals of a Vision Zero program.